

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

1-169. (canceled)

170. (currently amended) A method for producing an immune response, comprising

a) providing:

a composition comprising one of:

1) a hybrid particle comprising a fusion protein comprising a rodent hepadnavirus core antigen and a heterologous antigen, wherein said hybrid particle is a hybrid ground squirrel hepadnavirus particle that assembles satisfactorily of Table 15, or woodchuck hepadnavirus particle that assembles satisfactorily of Table 11, Table 12, Table 13, Table 15, or Table 16, and

2) an expression vector encoding said fusion protein; and

b) administering said composition to an animal under conditions such that an immune response is generated to said heterologous antigen.

171. (original) The method of claim 170, wherein said immune response comprises one or more of lymphocyte proliferative response, cytokine response and antibody response.

172. (original) The method of claim 171, wherein said antibody response comprises production of IgG antibodies.

173-187. (cancelled)

188. (previously presented) The method of Claim 170, wherein said animal is a human having pre-existing antibodies to hepatitis B virus core antigen.

189 and 190. (cancelled)

191. (currently amended / withdrawn) The method of ~~Claim 190~~ Claim 170, wherein said rodent hepadnavirus core antigen is a woodchuck hepadnavirus core antigen.

192. (currently amended) The method of ~~Claim 190~~ Claim 170, wherein said rodent hepadnavirus core antigen is a ground squirrel hepadnavirus core antigen.

193-197. (cancelled)